

Leaks of information revealing a liaison service's role in assisting the United States are a source of frustration cited by almost every expert the Joint Inquiry interviewed. At times, leaks are the result of procedures regarding warnings. For example, the U.S. has issued warnings based on information from liaison services – warnings required by U.S. policies – even though this angered the liaison service by potentially revealing its sources. More commonly, leaks are unauthorized, serve no policy purpose and simply anger liaison services whose sources and methods may be compromised.

[Leaks also hinder cooperation with governments that prefer to minimize public ties to the U.S., and particularly to U.S. intelligence. For example, one foreign government is sensitive to excessive public connections with the United States because they damage its reputation in the area and provide fuel for criticism to [——] rivals, according to a U.S. Government official].

Interviews with Intelligence Community officials suggest a range of additional problems. The U.S. can easily overwhelm a small liaison service with many demands. For instance, CIA Station personnel in [——] maintain that one of their principal responsibilities is to decide on the priorities for requests for information so that the [——] do not receive too many. U.S. laws, [page 291] particularly those that attach the death penalty to crimes, make it difficult for several governments to extradite terrorist suspects to, or provide information in support of prosecutions by, the U.S. This has hindered cooperation in the investigations of Zacarias Moussaoui and other suspects. Finally, although intelligence cooperation is often isolated from shifts in bilateral diplomacy, poor bilateral relations can affect intelligence liaison relations in negative ways.

E. Coordination of Foreign Liaison

[Most Intelligence Community officials operating overseas coordinate liaison relations well with DCI representatives who are responsible for intelligence relations with foreign governments. U.S. Ambassadors are always briefed, according to the Chief of the CIA's [———]. He emphasized that the primary instruction given to the DCI representatives by CIA is: "Recruit the U.S. Ambassador first," that is, gain the good will of the Ambassador. Interviews with several Ambassadors indicate that, in general, the Intelligence Community coordinates well with U.S. embassies].